

Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
TO THE
Rural District Council
of Amesbury,

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1912.

REPORT.

SHREWTON,

March 5th, 1913.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year ending 1912. The area of the district is 63,454 acres; the population at the last census, 11,158; the number of inhabited houses, 2,620. The population is chiefly engaged in agriculture.

During the year 292 births were registered, viz. : 131 males and 161 females, and for the same period 115 deaths were registered. Ten of these were non-residents, which leaves a total of 105; but to this number must be added the deaths of 16 residents which occurred beyond the district, thus making the nett total 121.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population is 26·1, as against 26·6 for the year 1911.

The death-rate for the same period, after correction, is 10·8 per 1,000, as against 10·3 for 1911.

In the annexed tables will be found the estimated population for the last five years, also the birth- and death-rates, with those of deaths under one year of age.

Of the 121 deaths registered, 50 were over 65 and upwards, 13 being over 80 years.

There were 24 deaths of infants under one year of age, making the infant mortality for the year 82·1 per 1,000 births registered.

Ten deaths occurred from the principal Zymotic diseases, viz., 3 from Whooping Cough, 1 from Diphtheria, 4 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 from other Tuberculous Diseases, and 1 from Puerperal Fever.

There were 12 deaths from Cancer, giving a death-rate of 1·07 per 1,000 for the year.

Two deaths occurred from Meningitis, 18 from Heart Disease, 1 from Bronchitis, 10 from Pneumonia, and 1 from other Diseases of Respiratory Organs, 1 from Diarrhoea, 1 from Appendicitis, 2 from Cirrhosis of Liver, 2 from Diseases of Parturition, 6 from Premature Birth, 1 Violent Death, and from all other causes, 54.

There were 41 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, which includes 18 cases of Phthisis, notified under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911. The last order, issued from the Local

Government Board, Dec. 1912, makes Tuberculosis in any part of the body compulsorily notifiable. There is also provision now made for Sanatorium and Home treatment, the latter consisting of extra food, such as milk, butter, eggs, and special hygienic rules to be carried out by the patient.

I hope in time that with all this special treatment and extra medical inspection the disease may be stamped out.

One case of Diphtheria was notified during the year, which occurred at Upper Woodford. It being a severe case the child was removed to the Infirmary and died there. I am unable to attribute this case to any special cause. The situation of the cottage, where the child lived, is under a hill and close to the river, consequently very damp and not particularly healthy, which may have been a contributory cause of the disease.

Three cases of Erysipelas occurred, 2 in Amesbury and 1 in Orcheston; all of a very mild type.

Sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. One occurred at Durrington, it was of a very mild type and did not spread. Fifteen cases occurred in the Winterbourne District, which necessitated closing the School from March 29th to April 14th. I cannot account for the outbreak, as I was unable to trace any source of infection. All the cases were of a mild type.

The case of Enteric Fever occurred at Shrewton. I was unable to trace it to any specific cause. Pumping drainage from a sewage tank, used on premises adjoining, may have been a contributory cause, as the subject of the disease was much run down from over-work. I may add, this tank will be removed as soon as the spring water has subsided.

In all cases of infectious diseases the Houses and Cottages were disinfected and white-washed and all precautions taken to prevent the spread of disease. The Salisbury District Joint Isolation Hospital, now being available for the reception of infectious diseases, the danger of the spread of infection should, in the future, be very much more remote.

There were 12 samples of water analysed during the year. Three were condemned, the rest found fit for domestic use.

Ten wells were sunk, 7 cleansed and repaired.

I understand a company is being promoted for the purpose of supplying Amesbury Parish with water, which will I think, if carried out prove a great boon to the inhabitants, and I might add it would be beneficial if such a scheme could be carried out in other places in the District, as in several villages the wells are liable to pollution from cess-pits which unfortunately lie in too close proximity to them.

The occurrence of wells in proximity to cess-pits is a bad principal, as there is bound to be a certain amount of pollution where such an

arrangement exists, but until a scheme of pure water supply, such as the one mooted at Amesbury, is introduced throughout these Villages, I cannot see how matters can be improved, unless the pail system is universally adopted and thoroughly carried out.

The Streams and Water-courses are in good order.

The Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Dairies and Cow-sheds have been duly inspected and found fairly satisfactory.

The Housing and Town Planning Act has been carried out during the year by the Inspector. I append a list in tabular form of the work done.

No legal proceedings were taken or required during the year.

My thanks are due to Mr. Huxham for the careful way he has carried out his duties of inspection and disinfection.

CHARLES EDDOWES,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Table of Information required under the Provisions of the
Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, for the period
1st January, 1912, to 31st December, 1912.*

1. Total number of houses reported to Council as dangerous or unfit for occupation	...	...	...	2
2. Total number of houses which have been actually closed without service of formal Closing orders under sec. 17				1
3. Total number of houses that have been rendered fit for occupation after Informal Notices	...	...	...	125
4. Total number of houses actually demolished, with or without Demolition Orders	...	...	...	1
5. Total number of houses suitable for occupation by the Working Classes which have been completed and ready for occupation, or first occupied, since 1st January, 1912, to 31st December, 1912	...	...	...	14
6. Total number of houses now in course of erection, but not completed on 31st December, 1912	...	...	...	3

TABLE I.—AMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics for Whole District during 1912 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District					
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.	Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.			
								Number	Rate.		Number	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	
1907	9029	265	...	...	32.0	119	14.3	18	...	13	49.0	101	12.2
1908	9196	300	...	...	36.2	112	13.5	11	3	12	40.0	104	12.5
1909	9373	285	...	...	34.4	119	14.3	16	2	19	66.6	105	12.6
1910	9551	284	...	...	34.3	91	11.0	11	3	9	31.6	83	10.0
1911	11158	297	...	...	26.6	104	9.0	1	13	23	77.4	116	10.3
1912	11561	292	...	...	26.1	115	10.3	10	16	24	82.1	121	10.8

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	63,454	Total population at all ages Number of inhabited houses Average number of persons per house	...	At Census of 1911.
			...	
			11,158 2,620 4.25	

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1912 in the Amesbury Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.				Total Cases re-moved to Hos-pital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Ames-bury.	Orches-ton.	Winter-bourne.		
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	2	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	1	6	9	...	...	...	...	1	...	15	1
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	4	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	4	1	11	4	3	...	
Totals	...	1	7	9	4	11	8	1	15	8	18	1	

Isolation Hospital : Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital.

TABLE III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during 1912, in the Amesbury Rural District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
		1 year.	2 years.	5 years.	15 years.	25 years.	45 years.	65 years.	upwards.	
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	118 3	24 ...	2 ...	1 1	2 ...	2 ...	16 ...	21 2	50 ...	28 ...
Whooping Cough	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	4	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	12	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	5	1
Meningitis	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	18	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	9	1
Bronchitis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	2	1	...	...	1	3	1	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Violent Deaths, excludg. Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other defined diseases	54	9	...	1	...	...	3	8	33	15
	121	24	2	2	2	2	16	23	50	28

TABLE IV.—*Infant Mortality in the Amesbury Rural District.*

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age during 1912.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
	Certified	Uncertified							
All causes	8	1	3	12	4	4	1	3	24
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Atelectasis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Premature birth	5	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	2
Other Causes	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	3
	8	1	3	12	4	4	1	3	24
Nett Births in the year	Legitimate	285			Nett Deaths in the year of		{	Legitimate infants	23
	Illegitimate	7					{	Illegitimate infants	1

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Workshops and Bakehouses inspected, 17.

No insanitary conditions to be dealt with.

Phthisis : Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

None in the District.

RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—JOHN T. HUXHAM,
Amesbury.

Whether Whole Time devoted to Duties of Sanitary Inspector or not ?
No.

What Other Appointments held ? Surveyor of Roads.

Date of last Re-appointment. Sept. 18th, 1912.

**Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's
Department**

During the year ending 31st December, 1912.

*Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical
Officer of Health.*

No. of Cases inquired into	...	...	27
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed	...	...	15
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	...	...	1

Houses.

No. erected (if information obtainable)	...	...	14
No. made fit for habitation	...	...	115
No. Closed as unfit for habitation	2
No. Cleansed and Limewashed	27

Overcrowding.

No. of Cases Abated	6
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House Drains.

No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified	17
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Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided	14
No. converted to Pail-Closets	8
No. Repaired	...	...	...	...	22

Water Supply.

No. of Wells sunk	...	...	...	...	10
No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	12
No. of Samples Condemned	...	...	...	...	2

Dairies and Cowsheds Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk. (Milk Sellers.)

No. in District	...	...	...	...	31
No. Registered	...	...	...	...	26
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	45
No. of Inspections during Milking Time	...	...	...	...	17
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	4

Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk. (Butter and Cheese Makers.)

No. in District	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Inspection of Premises	...	...	...	...	2

Slaughter Houses.

No. Registered or Licensed	...	...	...	...	5
No. Regularly Inspected	...	...	...	...	5
No. Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	...	1

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection	...	...	...	...	17
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	2

Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice	4
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals	2
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Clerical Work.

No. of Statutory Notices Served	15
No. of Statutory Notices Complied with		...	15
No. of Informal Notices Served	...	...	127
No. of Informal Notices Complied with		...	100
No. of Informal Notices Outstanding	...	...	27

J. T. HUXHAM.



